

## **Environmental Stewardship Update**

From: Pam Swingle  
Region 4 Pollution Prevention Program Manager

Date: June 25, 2007

### **Staples Launches Nationwide Electronics Recycling Program**

Source: Recycling Today

Staples, Inc. announced that it is becoming the first national retailer to offer computer recycling in stores every day. Customers can bring in their obsolete electronic scrap to any Staples store. All the equipment will be recycled in accordance with environmental laws. All brands will be accepted, regardless of whether or not the equipment was purchased at Staples, for a fee of \$10 per large item.

Staples is working with Amandi Services, one of the country's most experienced and innovative electronics recyclers, to handle recycling of the equipment, following standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The company said there is no limit on the quantity of equipment that can be recycled. The fee will be used to cover handling, transport, product disassembly and recycling. Smaller computer peripherals, such as keyboards and mice, will be recycled for free.

Staples Easy Tech service is on site in all stores to transfer data from an old computer to a new one for a fee. Equipment is bagged and sealed when customers drop them off at the Staples customer service desk. The equipment is picked up and delivered to Amandi Services, which disassembles the equipment into its component parts and destroys any data on the system. Amandi recycles the raw materials. The CRTs, which are the most hazardous part of electronics waste, are recycled using Amandi's proprietary technology into a raw material that is used to manufacture new televisions. For more information on Staples environmental programs visit [www.staples.com/sbd/content/about/soul/recycling.html](http://www.staples.com/sbd/content/about/soul/recycling.html)

### **DOE and USDA Inviting Applications for Biomass Research & Development Grant – Deadline July 11, 2007**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) jointly solicit applications for financial assistance addressing research and development of biomass based products, bioenergy, biofuels and related processes. This FY07 solicitation reflects the technical areas that will assist DOE and USDA in developing and maintaining a balanced portfolio of activities under the Federal Government's Biomass program to effectively advance cost effective utilization of biomass for the production of biobased fuels and products. For more information visit [www.grants.gov/search/search.do?opId=14378&mode=VIEW](http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?opId=14378&mode=VIEW)

### **Dell And Goodwill Expand Free Recycling Program**

Source: Waste News

Dell Inc. and Goodwill Industries have expanded their free computer drop-off recycling program to serve consumers in New Jersey and Philadelphia. Twenty-three area Goodwill locations will accept computer equipment at no cost through the Reconnect program. It will sort the items for reusable equipment and Dell will recycle and remarket materials, such as plastic, glass and metals, from machines that cannot be reused. Residents are responsible for removing data from their hard drives. All the proceeds from the program support Goodwill's nonprofit job-training and employment programs. More information, including the Goodwill locations, is available at [www.reconnectpartnership.com](http://www.reconnectpartnership.com)

### **U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Commits to \$1 Million in Green Building Research**

The USGBC announced this past week that they will commit \$1 Million to green building research. These funds will be targeted at increasing research in areas such as energy and water security; global climate change prevention; indoor environmental quality; and passive survivability in the face of natural and man-made disasters.

USGBC's commitment comes on the heels of its recently published "Green Building Research Funding: An Assessment of Current Activity in the United States", which found that research related to high-performance green building practices and technologies is woefully underfunded by all sectors. Using this work as its basis, the USGBC Research Committee will publish a national green building research agenda this fall that identifies key research areas for advancing building performance and market transformation.

The new research dollars are intended to be matching commitments, putting in place a mechanism that can leverage even greater funding for priority studies. Further details about the structure of the fund and application for grant dollars are being developed and will be announced later this summer. For more information on the USGBC visit [www.usgbc.org/](http://www.usgbc.org/)

### **Chattanooga's Goats Succeed in Taking Out Invasive Kudzu**

The invasive kudzu vine runs rampant throughout much of the southeastern United States. Earth-friendly eradication efforts have not been plentiful until the appearance on the scene of kudzu-munching goats now being employed on Missionary Ridge above Chattanooga, Tennessee. There, the vine poses a safety issue where it drapes down over the entrance to a highway tunnel through the ridge. Chattanooga city officials hired a local farmer who released his goat herd on the ridge last fall and the vine has now been eaten away over both the tunnel and the hillside above. Llamas serve as guardians for the goats, keeping predator dogs at bay. The city recently sponsored a four-day academy for goat farmers, hoping to stimulate a micro-industry of kudzu-fighting herds for hire. <http://heraldtribune.com/article/20070605/ZNYT02/706050729>

### **Domani and Garnet Offer First Sustainability Insurance Program**

Source: MarketWire, May 15, 2007 – David Schaller – Region 8

Domani Sustainability Consulting, an executive management consultancy, and Garnet Captive Insurance Services, have announced an alliance to create the first captive insurance program designed exclusively for companies that meet a series of sustainability guidelines. The program, called "Green," is expected to reduce significantly the insurance premiums of companies that enroll. "Green" will offer worker's compensation, general liability, and automotive liability insurance policies to qualified companies. Companies will be evaluated based on factors such as risk profile, business needs, and commitment to sustainability – measured through factors such as use of renewable energy, LEED certified buildings, energy efficiency best practices, and which provide services or products which support healthy lifestyles. For more information visit [www.marketwire.com/mw/release.html\\_b1?release\\_id=253331&tsource=3](http://www.marketwire.com/mw/release.html_b1?release_id=253331&tsource=3)

### **Groovy Green Lists 100 Things You Can Do to Prepare for Peak Oil.**

Source: MarketWire, May 15, 2007 – David Schaller – Region 8

Two recent issues of Groovy Green contain a listing developed by Sharon Astyk of "100 Things You Can Do To Prepare Yourself For Peak Oil." The list is intended for practical individual action in the face of coming expensive oil, but Astyk adds that it is also provides action ideas for responses to "whatever else comes down the pike." Subject areas under which the action steps are clustered include: home, garden, clothing, family, community, and transportation. The peak oil tool kit also recommends many behavioral changes that will increase in value in the time of expensive energy. For more information visit [groovygreen.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=347&Itemid=57](http://groovygreen.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=347&Itemid=57)

### **Call for Papers - 2008 Waste-to-Fuels Conference & Trade Show**

The Southern Waste Information eXchange, Inc., in conjunction with the Florida BioFuels Association, Inc. are pleased to announce the 1st Annual Waste-to-Fuels Conference & Trade Show. The event will be conducted at the Wyndham Orlando Resort, in Orlando, Florida on April 6-8, 2008.

The Waste-to-Fuels Conference & Trade Show will provide a forum for informing the public and private sectors of the economic and environmental benefits of converting waste materials to

alternative fuels such as biodiesel and ethanol as well as energy recovery. Attendees will have excellent networking opportunities and a chance to visit with exhibitors to preview the newest advances in alternative fuel production products and services. The conference will be designed to attract individuals and organizations/companies nationally. Tentative conference presentation topic areas include the following:

- Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)-to-Fuels & Energy Recovery
- BioMass-to-Fuels & Energy Recovery
- Plastics-to-Fuels
- Waste Oils and Grease-to-Fuels
- Landfill Gasses-to-Energy

Call for Papers, Exhibitors and Sponsors - Interested individuals are requested to contact Ray Moreau at (800) 441-7949 or by email at [ray@swix.ws](mailto:ray@swix.ws) for further details.

### **EU Adds Another Layer of Regulation**

Source: Resource Recycling

Though many electronics manufacturers are still struggling to comply with the European Union (EU) Commission's Restriction of Hazardous Substances directive (RoHS), another regulation will soon be enacted to further curtail the use of tens of thousands of chemicals, many of which are used in the making of electronics equipment. The new regulation, the EU's Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals (REACH), will cover many chemicals not handled by RoHS, by targeting chemicals as opposed to merely materials.

REACH will be managed by the newly created EU Chemicals Agency (Helsinki, Finland) and will require the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of over 30,000 chemicals. The initial implementation of the regulation is scheduled for June 1st, 2007, but the full execution could take as long as 11 years.

### **SWANA Urges Senate to Include Waste-to-Energy as a Renewable Energy Source**

Source: Waste Age Wire

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) sent a letter to U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., urging the Senate to recognize waste-to-energy as a renewable energy source. In the letter to Bingaman, SWANA asked him to include waste-to-energy in his renewable portfolio standard, which the senator is expected to introduce as an amendment to the Energy Proficiency and Promotion Act. "SWANA is pleased to present its views on waste-to-energy as a viable renewable energy source that should not be overlooked," said SWANA Executive Director and CEO John Skinner in a press release. "As stated in our letter, the nation's waste-to-energy facilities safely manage approximately 95,000 tons of household solid waste per day and have an electric capacity of 2,700 megawatts. We are hopeful that Senator Bingaman will take these facts into consideration and include waste-to-energy in the renewable portfolio standard."

### **EPA Offers An \$8 Million Grant to Provide Environmental Assistance For Livestock Operators – DEADLINE July 9, 2007**

EPA is requesting applications from organizations for a \$7.9 million grant to provide technical assistance to livestock operators, including animal feeding operations, for the prevention of water discharges and reduction of air emissions. The grant recipient will provide livestock operations with two types of technical assistance at no cost to the operator: (1) comprehensive assessments of water and air quality environmental challenges and recommendations for strategies to mitigate these challenges; and (2) development or review of the facility's nutrient management plan, which specifies the amount of manure that can be applied to crops so the potential for runoff to waterbodies is minimized. All livestock operations in the United States are eligible to receive assistance from the grant recipient. For more information visit [www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/livestock\\_grantsolicitation\\_may2007.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/livestock_grantsolicitation_may2007.pdf)

### **EPA Launches New Chinese Web Site**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has launched a new consolidated Chinese-language Web site as part of its ongoing effort to provide environmental information in English, Spanish and

Chinese. The new site compiles EPA Chinese-language materials on a wide variety of issues from lead poisoning prevention, energy efficiency, and clean water to proper management of pesticides. The site also serves as a valuable tool in delivering important health and environmental information to the Chinese-speaking community, both here in the U.S. and worldwide, to help protect local communities as well as the global environment. To visit the website go to [www.epa.gov/chinese](http://www.epa.gov/chinese)

### **EPA Grant Helps Montgomery and Bourbon County School Boards Reduce Children's Exposure to Diesel School Bus Emissions**

As part of EPA's Clean School Bus USA program, the Southeast Diesel Collaborative presented a grant for \$171,000 to the School Boards of Montgomery and Bourbon Counties, KY, to retrofit 51 buses with EPA-verified diesel oxidation catalysts and diesel particulate filters. Although these Counties attain the current ozone and fine particulate matter ambient air quality standards, they are undertaking the retrofits as part of a strategy of emissions reductions aimed to avoid future non-attainment designations. The grant to the School Board is one of four being awarded in the Southeast this year, totaling \$680,000.

The grant is part of agency's Clean School Bus USA program and will be used to fund exhaust filters to reduce diesel emissions. The diesel oxidation catalysts that will be installed on the buses will reduce emissions of fine particulates by at least 30 percent, hydrocarbons by at least 50 percent and carbon monoxide emissions by at least 30 percent. Not only will the retrofit devices improve air quality outside the buses, but will also reduce in-cabin emissions for sensitive students. These emission reductions will improve air quality for the 6,883 students that attend school in Montgomery and Bourbon Counties.

Over the past 3 years the U.S. EPA has awarded \$11 million to 61 grants to school districts, air quality districts and other entities to help reduce school bus diesel emissions through a variety of retrofit and alternative fuel campaigns. The goal of the Southeast Diesel Collaborative is to improve air quality by encouraging the use of clean, renewable energy and by reducing diesel emissions from existing engines and equipment from the agriculture, heavy construction and on-road sectors. For more information visit the Southeast Diesel Collaborative website at [www.southeastdiesel.org](http://www.southeastdiesel.org).

### **EnergyPlus News from Department of Energy**

#### **EnergyPlus Now Available for Apple's Intel-based Macintosh Platform**

The newest version of EnergyPlus (2.0), released on April 12, 2007, is also available today for Apple's Intel-based Macintosh platform (in addition to Windows and Linux versions). Key new features in V 2.0 include green roofs, phase-change materials, and enhanced building controls. Download at no cost from the EnergyPlus web site: <http://www.energyplus.gov>.

#### **Status of EnergyPlus plug-in for SketchUp**

DOE plans to release an EnergyPlus plug-in for Google's SketchUp later this summer. This free EnergyPlus plug-in will integrate building simulation functionality into the SketchUp drawing environment. The plug-in stores EnergyPlus input data on SketchUp surfaces as they are drawn by the user. An EnergyPlus toolbar provides a way to create zones and surfaces with only a few mouse clicks. Construction assignments are 'painted' onto surfaces using a palette of EnergyPlus wall, roof, and window constructions. Users will be able to execute an annual simulation from within SketchUp. Watch the EnergyPlus web site and email for more information.

#### **EnergyPlus Support Group at YahooGroups**

Are you a commercial or academic user of EnergyPlus? Join more than 1200 EnergyPlus users in an email group on YahooGroups. A place to ask your questions and share information with other EnergyPlus users. The YahooGroup also provides a searchable archive of all 6 years of discussion. You can also upload files to share with other users. This group supplements but does not replace the primary support email address of [EnergyPlus-Support@gard.com](mailto:EnergyPlus-Support@gard.com).

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## **EVENTS CALENDAR**

**Jun 26-27** - SE Diesel Collaborative Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information visit [www.southeastdiesel.org/index.html](http://www.southeastdiesel.org/index.html)

**Jul 7-12** – Solar 2007 in Cleveland, Ohio. For more information visit [www.ases.org/solar2007/why.htm](http://www.ases.org/solar2007/why.htm)

**Jul 13** - National Association of Counties' Annual Conference and Exposition in Richmond, Virginia. For more information visit [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)

**Jul 31-Aug 2** – Southeast Bioenergy Conference 2007 in Tifton, Georgia. For more information visit [www.sebioenergy.org/reg.htm](http://www.sebioenergy.org/reg.htm)

**Aug 1-3** – 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast Watershed Roundtable in Braselton, Georgia. For more information visit [www.southeastwaterforum.org/roundtables/registration.asp](http://www.southeastwaterforum.org/roundtables/registration.asp)

**Aug 5-8** - GovEnergy, New Orleans, [www.govenergy.gov](http://www.govenergy.gov)

**Aug 13-15** - ASTSWMO Solid Waste Managers Conference in Portland, Oregon. For more information visit [www.astswmo.org/meetings\\_upcomingmeetings-2007Conference.htm](http://www.astswmo.org/meetings_upcomingmeetings-2007Conference.htm)

**Aug 22-24** - Georgia Environmental Conference in Savannah, Georgia. For more information visit [www.GeorgiaENet.com](http://www.GeorgiaENet.com)

**Aug 26-29** – Georgia Recycling Coalition Annual Conference: Rolling Out the Green Carpet for Recycling in St. Simons Island, Georgia. For more information visit [www.georgiarecycles.org](http://www.georgiarecycles.org)

**Sep 16-19** - National Recycling Conference in Denver, Colorado. For more information visit [www.RecyclingConference.org](http://www.RecyclingConference.org)

### **September 17-23 – Pollution Prevention Week**

**Sep 25-27** – 2007 Energy from Biomass and Waste Conference in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. For more information visit [www.ebw-expo.com/visit.htm](http://www.ebw-expo.com/visit.htm)

**Sep 26-29** – Automotive Recyclers Association in Orlando, Florida. For more information visit [www.a-r-a.org/content.asp?contentid=500](http://www.a-r-a.org/content.asp?contentid=500)

**Oct 1-3** – BioCycle Conference on Renewable Energy from Organics Recycling in Indianapolis, Indiana. For more information visit [www.biocycle.net](http://www.biocycle.net)

**Oct 16-18** – WasteCon 2007 in Reno, Nevada. For more information visit <http://wastecon.swana.org>

**Oct 22** - NC Sustainability Awards and Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina. For more information visit [www.sustainnc.org](http://www.sustainnc.org)

**Oct 24-25** - E-Scrap 2007: The North American Electronics Recycling Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information visit [www.e-scrapnews.com](http://www.e-scrapnews.com)

**Nov 1-2** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Asphalt Shingles Recycling Forum in Chicago, Illinois. For more information visit [www.shinglerecycling.org](http://www.shinglerecycling.org)

**Nov 7-9** – Greenbuild 2007 - US Green Building Council Conference in Chicago, Illinois. For more information visit [www.greenbuildexpo.org](http://www.greenbuildexpo.org)

**November 15 – America Recycles Day**

**2008**

**Mar 10-13** – SWANA's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Landfill Gas Symposium in Houston, Texas. For more information visit <http://lfg.swana.org/>

**Apr 6-8** - 2008 Waste-to-Fuels Conference & Trade Show in Orlando, Florida. For more information visit [www.waste-to-fuels.org](http://www.waste-to-fuels.org).

**April 22** – **Earth Day**

**May 5-7** – Brownfields 2008 – The National Brownfields Conference in Detroit, Michigan. For more information visit [www.brownfields2008.org](http://www.brownfields2008.org)

**Jun 4-9** – North American Waste-to-Energy Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For more information visit <http://nawtec.org/>

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**Note:** Mention of non-EPA documents, websites, meetings or presentations DOES NOT constitute a U.S. EPA endorsement, only an acknowledgment that they exist and may be relevant.

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